

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As the committee begins consideration of the FY10 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill and report, we write in support of the following project.

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| Project Title: | Mobility International USA Clearinghouse |
| Grantee: | Mobility International USA, Eugene, Oregon |
| FY 2009 Request: | Department of State, Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs \$500,000 |

The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse educates people with disabilities and disability-related organizations about international opportunities; works to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the full range of international exchange programs; provides international exchange organizations and colleges and universities with practical how-to consultation, assisting them to be proactive in their inclusion of people with disabilities in their programs; and facilitates partnerships between people with disabilities, disability-related organizations and international exchange organizations. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse also has a foreign language initiative to promote participation of people with disabilities in foreign language international exchange programs.

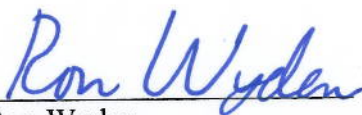
This project will provide jobs to approximately twelve full-time and consultant employees, of whom more than 50% are people with disabilities. In addition, the project provides employment training for university interns and students. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse potentially provides information to the 60 million people with disabilities in the US so that they may have the opportunity to participate in

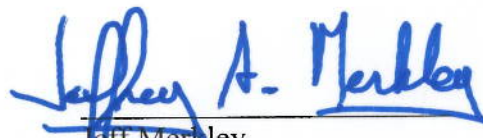
international exchange, which can result in better employment, especially as the world economy seeks more employees with cross-cultural and foreign language capabilities.

Additionally, we certify that neither ourselves' nor our immediate family have a pecuniary interest, consistent with the requirements of Paragraph 9 of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, in the congressionally directed spending item that we requested in this letter. We further certify that we have posted a description of the item requested on our official websites, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Isaiah Akin on Senator Wyden's staff at 4-5244 or Courtney Thompson on Sen. Merkley's staff at 4-3753.

Sincerely,


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Jeff Merkley
United States Senator